

# PREFACE

THIS book speaks for itself. I have tried to illustrate what Hitler has told the German people in speeches published before the outbreak of the present war. It has been obviously impossible for me to reproduce what he may have said in confidential discourses delivered before officials of the Party. In the published speeches certain themes constantly recur. The repetitions in these translated extracts are thus intentional; I have sought to bring into clear relief those ideas which through recent years have been hammered repeatedly into the minds of Germans.

The speeches of Hitler are not easily translated into tolerable English; I have throughout tried primarily to give a faithful verbal translation of the text. When in doubt concerning Hitler's meaning or when reduced to a version which was in fact a paraphrase I have put the German text into a footnote. When owing to extreme diffuseness in the text of the speech I have resorted to an analysis, I believe that I have inserted no word or idea which is not to be found in the original text. I have sought scrupulously to avoid either addition or suppression. In some cases where the speech is only summarized in the published report I have translated that summary even though I cannot be certain that Hitler's precise wording is reproduced.

Many of the National Socialist key-words do not really admit of any satisfactory English rendering; words have their own atmosphere, and that atmosphere is lost by a transference to another language. The difficulty is at times increased by the conscious archaism of National Socialist terminology which is often drawn from the vocabulary of German Romanticism or of the early nationalist movement associated with the name of Jahn. Such words as *Volkstum*, *völkisch*, and the like baffle a translator. How shall he render *Gleichschaltung*, *Volksgemeinschaft*, *Gau*, or even the ubiquitous *Werkarschauung*? Any version, I fully realize, must be an inadequate makeshift. I have done what I could.

Where interviews with Hitler have been reported in French journals I have cited the French text; it appeared to be unnecessary in this case to translate the reports into English.

In the bibliographies (save where it is otherwise expressly stated) I have included only such books and articles as I have either read or consulted. War conditions have made many books inaccessible which I should otherwise have wished to include. The bibliographies are therefore of necessity somewhat arbitrary, but I hope that even so these references may save the time of the student of National Socialism. It would at least have been idle to insert works known to me only by **their** titles, on the character of which it would have been impossible for me to form any judgment. It will be realized that the bibliographies are intended to illustrate the translated extracts, and this fact explains the exclusion from them of subjects which might otherwise have been included.

Where an authorized English version of a speech has been published in Germany I have thought it prudent, despite the peculiarities of the language, in general to quote this translation. Otherwise it might be thought that I had some ulterior motive in making my own version of the speech. For such authorized English versions of speeches delivered in 1933 see in particular *The New Germany desires Work and Peace*, Berlin, Liebheit & Thiesen (no date). There are also authorized translations of separate speeches issued in pamphlet form: Speech in Reichstag 30 January 1934, Speech in Reichstag 21 May 1935, Speech in Reichstag 7 March 1936, Speech in Reichstag 30 January 1937, Speech in Reichstag 20 February 1938, Speech in Reichstag 28 April 1939. A pamphlet entitled *Liberty, Art, Nationhood*, Berlin, Müller (no date), contains a translation of three addresses delivered by Hitler at the Seventh National Socialist Congress, Nuremberg, 1935.

Many friends and colleagues have readily helped me when I was in difficulties: for that help I would express my warm thanks. Mr. H. St. L. B. Moss translated some of the extracts included in this book; his translations were revised by me and I am therefore solely responsible for any errors in these versions. I am particularly grateful for his long-suffering co-operation.

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N. H. B.

